

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02820 101739Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 101300Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE ZSHDC 0933  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, UNSC, LE, IS, KU  
SUBJ: ASSUALTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 117862

1. BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD GRANTED ME APPOINTMENT MAY 10, MAY LAST DAY IN KUWAIT BEFORE CONSULTATIONS/ HOME LEAVE, I DECIDED TO MAKE POINTS STATED REFTEL WITHOUT AWAITING RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS BY USUN. ACCORDINGLY, I TOLD FONMIN USG IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON WITH RESPECT TO ATTACKS ON UN FORCES THERE. I POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL STILL OCCUPIES SIX MILE BELT, BUT THAT PRIMIN BEGIN HAS ASSURED US HE WOULD SEEK A SPECIFIC DATE FOR FINAL WITHDRAWAL. I ASSURED SABAH AL-AHMAD WE WILL PRESS BEGIN TO DO SO, AND THAT OUR POSITION IS THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LINKAGE OF WITHDRAWAL TO VARIOUS CONDITIONS.

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2. DRAWING ON PARA. 3 REFTEL, I SAID THAT, IF INCIDENTS CAUSING UNIFIL CASUALTIES CONTINUE, THIS WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE TASK OF ASSURING AN END TO ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON. USG WAS THEREFORE ASKING GOK AND OTHER ARABS TO USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE THEY COULD MUSTER ON THE VARIOUS FORCES INVOLVED TO PREVENT INCIDENTS OF THE SORT. I POINTED OUT THAT ALL COUNTRIES VIEW ATTACKS ON UN FORCES AS UNJUSTIFIED AND THAT FOR BETTER OR

WORSE PUBLIC WOULD TEND TO THINK OF PALESTINIAN ACTIONS AS "ARAB" ACTIONS AND THIS WOULD DAMAGE USG ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. SABAH AL-AHMAD LED OFF REPLY EXPRESSING HIS SORROW FOR UNIFIL CASUALTIES, SAYING THAT UN TROOPS STAND NOT FOR THEIR OWN NATIONS BUT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OF US IN THE UN. FONMIN WAS ALSO SORRY TO SAY THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REMAINS UNABLE TO FORM ITS OWN ARMY AND HAS BEEN TRYING TO UTILIZE UN TROOPS "FOR OTHER ERRANS AND RESPONSIBILITIES." KUWAIT DOES NOT WANT TO SEE UNIFL EXPOSED TO ATTACKS BY PEOPLE SAID TO BE PALESTINIANS, AND DOES NOT WISH ISRAEL TO BE PROVIDED SUCH PRETEXT FOR CONTINUED OCCUPATION. KUWAIT HAS INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM PLO THAT THE PLO IS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THESE INCIDENTS. ARAFAT WILL SHORTLY BE COMING HERE ON A TRIP THROUGH THE REGION AND, FONMIN IMPLIED, KUWAITIS WOULD PROBE THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM. SABAH AL-AHMAD SAID THE PLO BELIEVES THAT VARIOUS FACTIONS (IN SOUTH LEBANON) ARE TRYING TO BLACKEN THE PLO REPUTATION, AND THAT OF ARABS GENERALLY, BY MEANS OF THESE INCIDENTS. FONMIN REPEATED HIS REGRET FOR UN CASUALTIES AT HANDS OF "IRRESPONSIBLE FACTIONS" AND SAID KUWAIT CONTINUES TO PRESS GOL TO FORM AN EFFECTIVE ARMY.

4. I SAID THAT WE TOO ARE PRESSING GOL ON THIS POINT, AND SPECIFICALLY, FOR THE MOMENT, TO SEND GENDARMES TO SOUTH LEBANON. FONMIN RECALLED THAT TWICE WHEN RENEWAL OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCES  
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WAS UNDER DISCUSSION KUWAIT TOOK POSITION THAT ARABS WOULD DO BETTER TO SHOW LEBANON THAT ADF SHOULD NOT BE RENEWED, AND TO HELP THE LEBANESE TO FORM THEIR OWN ARMY. THE TROUBLE IS THAT DIFFEENCES AMONG LEBANESE LEADERS ARE PROJECTING PROBLEMS EVEN BEYOND LEBANON AND ACROSS THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, FONMIN SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC, "UNLESS THERE IS A MIRACLE," THAT AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED.

5. COMMENT: I TAKE IT THAT KUWAITIS INDEED SHARE OUR CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT BUT, LIKE US, DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO OR INFLUENCE WITH EXTREMIST FACTIONS WHO HAVE BEEN BEHIND RECENT INCIDENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON.  
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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